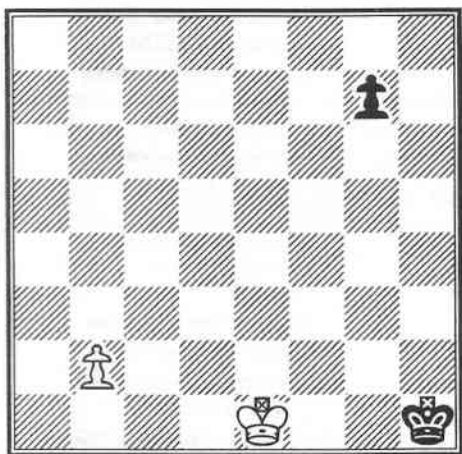


Alabama Chess Antics

February – April 2000

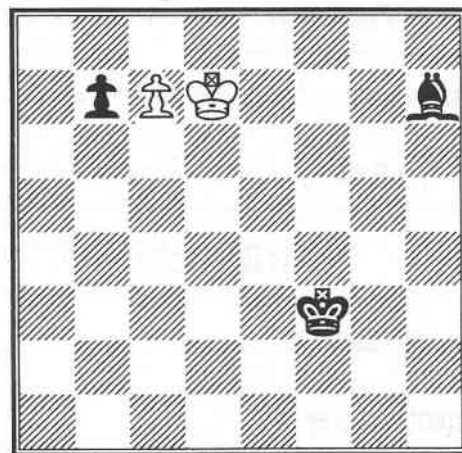
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S. Isenegger, 1964



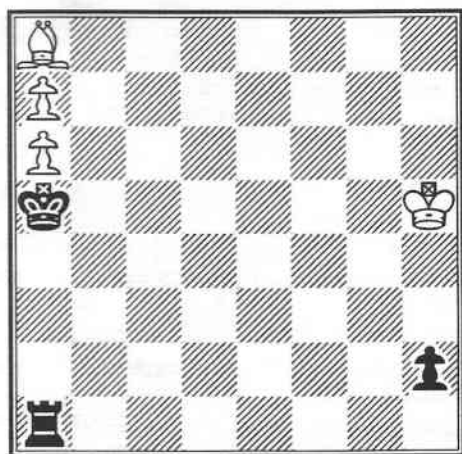
White to play and win

A. & K. Sarychev, 1928



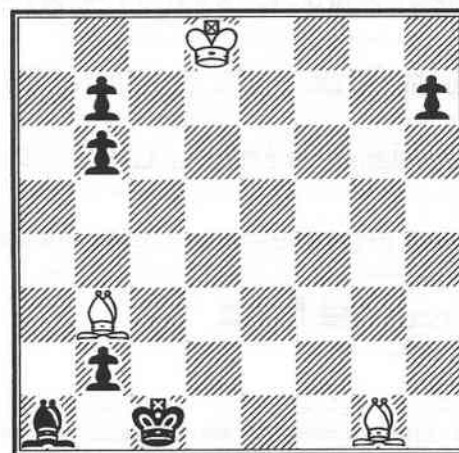
White to play and draw

J. Fritz, 1961



White to play and win

G. Nadareishvili, 1949



White to play and win

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About the cover. We usually have a photo, but this time I've reprinted four composed endgame studies that I found in Secrets of Spectacular Chess by Jonathan Levitt and David Friedgood, one of my favorite chess books. To reap the full benefit of a good endgame study, one must think deeply about the position (they are usually much harder to solve than the "find the shot" kinds of puzzles taken from actual games that one often sees in books on chess tactics.) So I'm saving the solutions until next time. Enjoy! - RP

President's Letter to the Membership
January 5, 2000

It was my understanding that the Alabama Chess Federation would not be receiving in the future any further SASP ("State Affiliate Support Program") funds. However, in a letter received from the USCF, dated December 24, 1999, several items were outlined to me, in detail, which I feel are very important for each member of the state Federation to know and understand. This letter mentions a motion concerning "Duties and Responsibilities of State Affiliates" passed by the USCF Board of Delegates in 1991, which is reprinted elsewhere in this issue [see page 18].

The first priority, which has a deadline of May 31, 2000, is how we will use the funds that USCF will send to us. I need your input as to what project you feel would be most beneficial for the state to work on as a project for this money.

Also in 2000, state-wide members of the USCF will be electing delegates and electing voting members to the board of directors of the USCF. Needless to say, this will include quite a few USCF members who at this time are not members of the ACF. Elsewhere in this issue [see page 15] we are reprinting Article V of the USCF bylaws that concerns the Board of Delegates.

Because it is important that each member of ACF at the current time is aware of what is to take place in the year 2000, I have asked Rhodes Peele to publish [see pages 16-17] in this Antics the letter received from USCF—in lieu of any attempt on my part to explain it in detail via letter.

Thank you for your participation.

Sincerely,

Richard Ellis

The Chess Foundation of Alabama

Well, the Foundation is in its 4th year as a fully-recognized 501(c)(3) organization. That status, simply put, means that any monies received are fully tax deductible to the donor in the year in which the contribution is made. The Foundation had several large contributors in 1998, which enabled the Foundation to purchase its first Certificate of Deposit (\$1500). By vote of the Directors, the interest earned was added back into the CD.

This year, to date, has been a slow year for contributions compared to what was accomplished in 1998. It points out the need for every person interested in the future of chess in Alabama to evidence that interest by making a contribution to the Foundation. Without funds, the continued growth of chess in Alabama will not be accomplished. To all who have contributed, the Board acknowledges and appreciates your contributions - whether great or small. And to those few who have become regular annual, quarterly or monthly contributors, the Board says a special "thanks".

If you have not been involved in this worthy undertaking, GET INVOLVED!!!! There are programs which could have been begun yesterday but for the lack of funds. In this issue of the Antics, there is contribution information which may be interesting to those who have already become involved, and perhaps it will encourage those who have not - THE MAIN POINT BEING THAT, TO DATE, OF 100+ ADULT ACF MEMBERS, ONLY 19 ARE PARTICIPANTS IN THE GROWTH OF THE FOUNDATION!!!

Chess is not this year's fad - it is a game for a lifetime! We solicit your help in growing chess in Alabama for its youth, its teens, its young adults, and its seniors.

Richard Ellis

Agent for the Directors

The Peril of Publishing your Games by Bill Melvin

The year 1999 was a mixed year for my chess. Early in the year I could do no wrong. I won the Space City Open and other events and my rating broke 2300 for the second time. Later in the year, I could do no right. My rating plunged back below 2250 as I lost game after game. This "slump" has a variety of causes. Often it only takes one bad move to spoil a tournament. Sometimes, a nice looking position turns out to be not so great. I've been around long enough to know that slumps are a natural part of chess. I'll play through this one and hopefully be stronger in the end. Remember that you learn more from your losses than your wins. Just keep your spirits up and concentrate on every move.

Below are my last two games from the 1999 Alabama State Championship. I started off with two wins and two draws including a draw with top seeded Stephen Muhammad. I was now guaranteed to play down two rounds in a row and a single win would be good enough to be at least state co-champion. I couldn't have asked for a better tournament position. My result was my worst nightmare.

Alabama State Championship
Birmingham, Alabama
September 5, 1999

Round 5 Board 2
30/90 SD/60
Alekhine Defense (B02)
Bill Melvin (2311)
Richard Frye (2069)

1. e4 Nf6

Already my danger sense should go off. While I don't know much about Richard's opening repertoire, I don't recall him playing Alekhine's Defense.

2. e5 Nd5
3. c4 Nb6
4. c5 Nd5
5. Bc4 e6

This variation looks strange and I've been playing it with success for over a decade. It helps sometimes being the only one in the area who plays a certain variation. On the downside, the line is considered roughly even theoretically. In the past, this hasn't been a problem as none of my opponents have been aware of the theory.

6. Nc3 Nc3

Already, we've reached a position that I've never faced before. Richard admitted after the game that he had prepared the opening especially for me based on one of my games in the Antics. Even though I've published many games, this is the first time I recall being ambushed (at least an ambush that worked). The old main line featured 6. ... Bc5 and I have a bit of experience in those positions.

7. dc3 Nc6
8. Nf3 ...

My computer selects the same move and considers black to have an edge. Theory considers 8. Bf4 with insane complications which are roughly dynamically

balanced.

8. ... Bc5
9. Bg5 Be7

Black has a fine central pawn mass. 9. ... f6 drives the point home even better. White doesn't have a real attack. Black has an extra pawn and white has a space advantage. The real problem with white's position is the fact that the extra pawn is a healthy center pawn. Black enjoys a solid advantage.

10. Bf4 d5
11. Bd3 O-O

My face brightened up when I saw this move. At the time, I felt that my attack would likely be decisive and worth much more than a pawn. In retrospect, black has enough resources (especially the strong center) to afford castling into my attack.

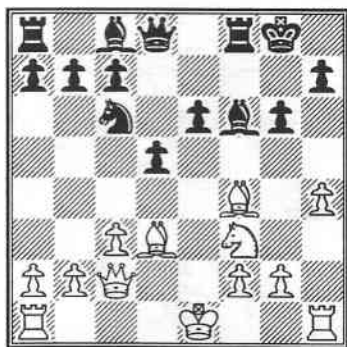
12. Qc2 g6

The computer prefers 12. ... h6 here. After the text move, white should continue with 13. Bh6 before pushing the h-pawn.

13. h4 f5
14. ef ep Bf6

Immediately after the game, Richard and I thought that 15. h5 was an irresistible attack. However, black's position offers ample resources with 15. ... e5 beating back the attack. White is worse in any

event as my sacrifice is horrible.



Position after 14. ... Bf6

15. Bg6? hg6
16. Qg6 Bg7

The fundamental flaw in my calculations is that black can meet 17. Ng5 with 17. ... Rf4 winning a piece and providing an exit square for his king. With this serious miscalculation, black is winning. Black will simply offer even trades and force the white army away.

17. Qg3 e5!

White cannot capture on e5 without losing a piece from a pin on the e-file.

18. Bg5 Qd6
19. Nd2 e4
20. Qe3 d4

Richard drives home the advantage decisively. The computer now finds black up over a piece. I'll provide the remainder without notes.

21. Qe2 dc
22. bc Bf5
23. g4 Bh7
24. Rh3 Nb4
25. Qc4 Kh8

26. Kf1 e3
27. Ne4 Be4
28. Qe4 Qa6
29. Kg2 ef
30. Rf1 Na2
31. Be3 Nc3
32. Qe7 Qc6
33. Kh2 Rae8
34. Qg5 Be5
35. Rg3 Bg3
36. Kh3 Be5

If 36. ... Qf3, then 37. Qh6 draws by perpetual check.

37. Qh5 Kg8
38. Qg5 Bg7
39. Bd4 Qf3
40. Kh2 Qf4
41. resigns

0 - 1

My tournament position was still not so bad. Neither Stephen Muhammad nor Richard Frye are from Alabama, so a last round victory would ensure at least the State Co-Championship.

Alabama State Championship Birmingham, Alabama September 6, 1999

Round 6 Board 2 30/90
SD/60 Bishop's Opening
(C23)

Matt Puckett (2195)
Bill Melvin (2311)

1. e4 e5

Something is up. Matt normally only plays 1. d4 and we both know that he only needs a draw. I usually play a Sicilian Defense, but enjoy any sort of scrappy open position.

2. Bc4 Nc6
3. d3 f5?!

I've been playing provocatively the entire tournament. I am familiar with the position after 1. e4 e5, 2. Bc4 f5?! whereby black gets the advantage after 3. Bg8 and has a playable position after 3. ef. The books give 3. d3 an "!" with a solid white advantage. I've never been completely convinced of this evaluation and wanted to tempt my opponent into a tactical mess.

4. Nc3 Nf6
5. Nge2 Bc5
6. Bg5?? ...

This has got to be the worst move Matt has ever played against me. My risky opening play has paid off.

6. ... Bf2
7. Kf1 Bb6
8. ef d5
9. Bf6 Qf6
10. Bd5 Bf5
11. Ke1 Rf8
12. Ng3 ...



Position after 12. Ng3

So, why am I not the 1999 Alabama State Champion? I missed my win in this position. Neither Matt nor I saw the move in our post mortem. It took IM Stuart Rachels only a few seconds to find the killing blow

12. ... Bf2, 13. Kf2 Be4 (the interference move I missed), 14. Ke3, Qf2, 15. Ke4 Qd4 (mate). While black is still much better, I never again see a position this clearly winning.

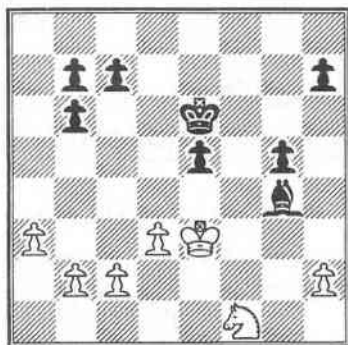
12. ...	Bd7?
13. Bf3	Nd4
14. Nd5	Nf3
15. gf3	Qf3
16. Qf3	Rf3
17. Nb6	ab6
18. Rf1	Rf1
19. Kf1	Ke7

Black is still technically winning with an extra pawn and bishop versus knight.

20. Ke2 Bg4?!

As Stuart Rachels pointed out after the game, 20. ... Bc6 puts the bishop on the best diagonal. I thought I was gaining a tempo at the time. In many positions, the best square is more important than gaining a move. This is the case here.

21. Ke3	Ke6
22. a3	Rf8
23. Rf1	Rf1
24. Nf1	g5



Position after 24. ... g5

Black is still technically winning although the position

can be tricky. Activating the kingside pawns should be the top priority.

25. Ng3	Bf5
26. Ne2	b5?!

The pawns should be left at home, of course. They are nearly unassailable from their previous position. Now, they become awkward and cost me the win. I was trying to take away all the outposts for the knight. While that is a good strategy in some positions, it simply doesn't apply here.

27. Nc3	c6
28. b4	h5

I've got the right idea. I just don't have the bishop on the right diagonal and the queenside pawns are becoming a liability.

29. a4	ba
30. Na4	b5
31. Nc5	Kd5

I still felt I had everything under control and liked my position. Black is still up a pawn and I was happy. However, the position is probably unwinnable even now.

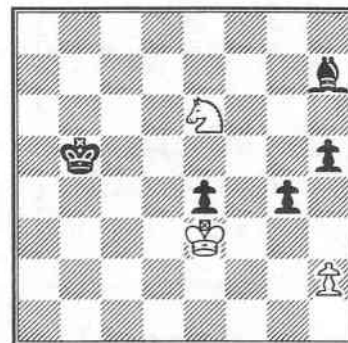
32. Nb3 e4

Black's last serious attempt was 32. ... h4.

33. Nd4	Bg6
34. c4!	bc
35. dc	Kc4
36. Nc6	Bh7
37. Nd4	Kb4
38. Ne6	g4

I'm now up two pawns, but my pawn structure is horrible, and white has the better king

position. I'm still in a win at all cost scenario, so I decide to have a little fun.



Position after 38. ... g4

39. Ng5	h4!?
40. Ne4!	...

This is the most practical decision. I was hoping for 40. Nh7 h3 and some sort of catastrophe like 41. Ke4?? g3, 42. hg h2 and black wins.

40. ...	Bf5
41. Kf4	Bc8
42. Nf2	g3
43. hg	hg
44. Kg3	Draw

1/2 - 1/2

Congratulations to State Co-Champions Matt Puckett and Andy Reeder along with tournament winner Stephen Muhammad.

Two Master Games from the Vulcan by A.J. Goldsby I

Vulcan Open May 5, 1999
W: A J. Goldsby I (2255)
B: Daniel Thomas (2210)

1. e4 e5
 2. Bc4 ...

My opponent looked very lost here, probably because everyone told him he could expect the Giuoco Piano, which had been my offense for 20+ years.

2. ... Nf6
 3. Nxe4 Nc3

I had my choice between two different Gambits (among other things) in this opening. I choose between the Boden-Kieseritsky Gambit, which is probably the oldest known opening. The other gambit choice was the Urusoff Gambit. And I could have played the ultra-positional line, 3. d3. Or something else.

4. ... Nc6!?

According to the book, this is losing. But I found several improvements to the book line, over the board. Mainly 4. Nxe4!? d5 5. Bd3 f5! which I judged to be unclear at best or maybe even better for Black.

5. O-O ...

The best practical try. White attempts to make the most of his extra tempo.

5. ... Nxc3
 6. dxc3 Be7

Black sees nothing better than to give his extra pawn back. This should have been good for

equality.

7. Qd5 O-O
 8. Nxe5 Nxe5
 9. Qxe5 Bf6
 10. Qg3 d5



Position after 10. ... d5

The game is approximately equal.

11. Rd1 c6
 12. Bd3 ...

White must prevent Black's bishop from coming to f5 if he is to have even the tiniest of advantages.

12. ... Qb6

12. ... a5 deserves consideration. The idea is to run the pawn to a3 to disrupt White's Q-side pawn formation. Black slowly begins to drift.

13. Rb1 ...

A cheap tactic: 13. ... Bxc3 14. Bxh7+, winning the piece back, perhaps with a slight advantage.

13. ... Be6

14. Be3 Qa5
 15. a3 c5?!

A truly dubious idea. White's position now explodes with energy. Yet with accurate defense, Black may have yet earned a draw.

16. b4!! cxb4
 17. cxb4! ...

Another trick. 17. ... Qxa3? 18. Bc5 Rfc8? 19. Bxh7+ wins the Black Queen.

17. ... Qa4?!

It seems the Queen should immediately return to the center. Black gets behind on the clock and slowly seems to lose the thread of the game.

18. h4! ...

The pawn wishes to travel to h6 to shatter the Black King's cover. In the meantime, Black may capture all the pawns that he wishes.

18. ... Kh8
 19. h5 h6
 20. Qf3 ...

(diagram top of next page)

The main threat is 21. Bxh6 gh 22. Qxf6+.

20. ... Be7?

Far better was 20. Qd7. Then I could play the exchange sac 21. Bxh6!? Bg4 22. Qf4 Bxd1 23. Rxd1 Rae8 24. g4 with a somewhat dangerous attack. It really helped me that Black had



Position after 20. Qf3

less than two minutes to make time control (Time Control: 30 moves in 1 hour, then Sudden Death in 1 hour). With the Bishop move, Black loses control of an important diagonal.

21. Bd4! Qd7
22. Qe3 ...

I played this move very quickly. It threatens 23. Qxh6+ and mate. Note that the defense 23. ... Bg5 does not work (23. ... Bg5 24. f4 Be5 25. f5! (threatening Qxh6+ again) Bg5 26. Qf3 and the Black Bishop is doomed. These constant tactical subtleties were, in large part, responsible for chewing up the few remaining minutes on Mr. Thomas's clock.

22. ... Kg8
23. Qg3 f6
24. Qg6 Rfc8
25. Re1! ...

White finds a way to bring the rooks into the attack. This is the second Morphy principle; when attacking, always bring up the reserves, when possible. In other words, find the pieces that are not participating in the attack, and do your best to bring them into action. It's easy

to see that, right at the present moment, the two White Rooks are not involved in the foray against the Black monarch. I've shown this position to more than two dozen people and none of them suggested 25. Re1.

25. ... Bf7
26. Qh7+ Kf8
27. Qh8+ Bg8
28. Bh7! ...

(Notice that I could play 28. Bg6 here.) I was loathe to play this and my next move. It forces Black's reply, and given Black's flag was just about to fall, it did not appeal to me to make a series of moves where Black did not have to think ... but only had to play the only possible move. But it was necessary to keep Black in a box.

28. ... Kf7
29. Bg6+ ...

Notice the difference between 28. Bg6, and the way I played the game, 29. Bg6+. Both created the identical position, with one important difference: after 28. Bg6, it is Black to move; but after 29. Bg6+, Kf8, it is White to move.

(The extra move is insignificant from the aspect of the position I am seeking to create, although it does get my opponent one move closer to the Time Control.)

29. ... Kf8

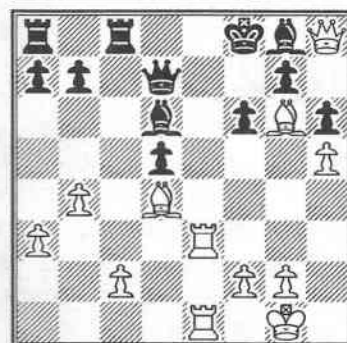
Notice that if White had not played 25. Re1, here the Black King might slither away with 29. ... Ke6.

30. Re3! ...

Both White Rooks wish to join the party. Notice that 30.

Rb3! with the idea of Rook at b3 to e3, does the same thing.

30. ... Bd6
31. Rbe1 ...



Position after 31. Rbe1

31. ... Bf4

Black thought for a really long time here (something like 50 minutes). On 31. ... Rc4, White has his choice of wins. 32. Bxf6! gxf6 and now:

A) 33. Qxh6+ Qg7 34. Re8+ with mate; or

B) 33. Qxf6+ Bf7 34. Re7! and mates (if 34. ... Bxe7, then 35. Qxf7 is mate).

32. Re7! Qxe7
33. Rxe7 Kxe7
34. Qxg7+ Ke6
35. Qxf6+ Kd7
36. Qxf4 ...

White has a won game. 36. Bf5+ Kc7 37. Bxc8 Bg5 was less appealing to me.

36. ... Rf8
37. Qxh6 Bf7
38. Qg7 resigns

Black loses material or gets mated. (38. ... Ke8 39. Bc5, or 38. ... Ke6 39. Qf6+ K moves 40. Bxf7.

Vulcan Open May 5, 1999
W: Andrew Whately (2255)
B: A.J. Goldsby I (2255)

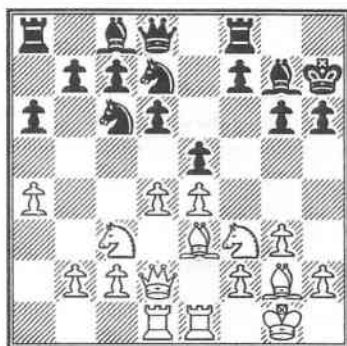
1. d4 Nf6
 2. Nf3 g6
 3. g3 Bg7
 4. Bg2 O-O
 5. O-O d6
 6. Re1 a6
 7. a4 Nfd7!

Black gets in ... e5, after which he is ok.

8. e4 e5
 9. Nc3 Nc6
 10. Be3 h6!?

Somewhat risky, as it weakens the K-side. But I prefer this to allowing 11. Qd2 and 12. Bh6.

11. Qd2 Kh7
 12. Rad1 ...



Position after 12. Rad1

12. ... exd4!

I begin a plan to free myself. It involves making a weakness [doubled c-pawns], but giving me some play. And I win the Bishop pair, if only temporarily.

13. Nxd4 Nde5
 14. Nxc6 bxc6

Here Andrew gave me a very strange look, as if to say: "Boy, is that risky".

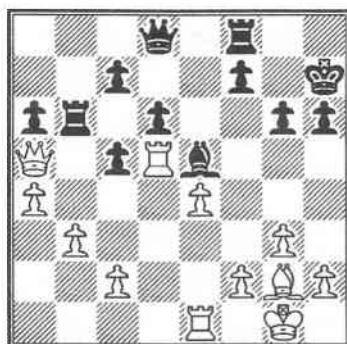
15. Bd4 c5
 16. Bxe5 Bxe5
 17. Nd5 Rb8
 18. b3 Be6
 19. Qa5 ?! ...

This strikes me as weak. The queen is the most powerful piece, and this off-sides maneuver seems a bit out of place here. Perhaps Andrew was uncomfortable with my idea of hanging on to the bishop pair.

19. ... Bxd5

Seems forced.

20. Rxd5 Rb6!



Position after 20. ... Rb6

A rather odd move, but in some variations I actually threaten to play ... Qf6 and ... Bc3 and trap the White Queen.

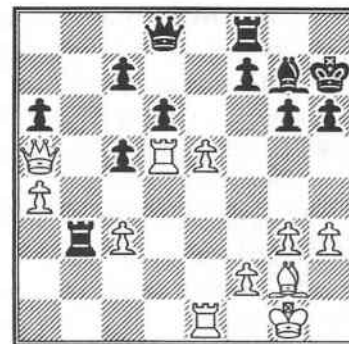
21. h3 Bd4
 22. c3 ...

[22. g4 Qf6 23. Re2 Bc3 24. e5 Bxe5 with advantage to Black.]

22. ... Bg7

22. ... c6? is a mistake.
 23. Rxd6! wins for White.

23. e5 Rxb3!



Position after 23. ... Rxb3

The beginning of a long, forcing and wild variation.

24. Qxa6 Re8
 25. Qc4! Qb8!
 26. f4! Ra3!
 27. Rd3 Re7
 28. Rde3 Qe8!
 29. e6! fxe6
 30. Rxe6 Rxe6
 31. Rxe6 Rxc3!
 32. Qd5! Qxa4

I saw the draw coming now.

33. f5! Qd4+
 34. Kh2 g5

Since a draw put the tournament in the bag, there was no need to risk the variation 34. ... Qxd5 35. fxe6+. At the time I thought this variation might be dangerous for Black, but in home study (with Fritz), I was to discover that all the threats were manageable. If a win were required, I would have of course played this line.

(continued to bottom of page 12)

... Got My Man by Caesar Lawrence

For this article I decided to use excerpts from an E-mail message I sent to Tom Purser, Editor of Blackmar-Diemer Gambit World (BDGW) magazine. The title then was—Transposing: A Chess Player Delight. I was so proud of my win.

This is about an over-the-board (OTB) game with one of my postal chess buddies, who was slapping me around and winning most of our postal games. I really needed a confidence booster against this player at that time.

Well, OTB is another story. I just love this game — chess. I went over to Columbus, GA (Ft. Benning Army Post) just to practice my game and hoped that my opponent would show. Just to see him there made my day. The turnout for this tournament typically runs to only 4 - 8 players. So I just knew that we would have to play each other. Overall, I tied for first with 2.5 points.

Here is the game:

4/25/98

Kelly Hill Open—Round 2
Scandinavian Defense
transposes to Zeller Defense
(a variant of Vienna Defense
to BGD)

White : Lamar Causey
(OTB: 1813; postal 1790)
Black : Caesar Lawrence
(OTB: 1547; postal 1668)

1. e4 d5!

Lately, Lamar uses this as his pet line against e4 openings.

I just refused to play his game. Plus, we were playing it in postal and he was slowly beating me. So, BGD popped into my head and I played 2. d4 and watched him sag. That's right, we're not playing a Center Counter today. No Sir, I decline your Scandinavian and offer you a BGD via transposition! The game continued

2. d4 dxe4
 3. Nc3 Bf5

I expected 3. ... Nf6 here.

4. f3 exf3
 5. Qxf3 e6??

5. ... Qc8 was the best move)

6. Qxb7 Nd7
 7. Bb5 Nf6
 8. Bg5 Be7
 9. Bxf6 Bxf6
 10. Bxd7+ Kxd7

I considered the game over at this point.

11. Nf3 Bxc2
 12. O-O ...

I'm developed.

12. ... Rb8?

Why mix it up when your king is exposed and your pieces are undeveloped and uncoordinated to attack successfully? He should have tried to regroup — Bf5 or Bd6.

13. Qxa7 Rxb2?!

Black goes pawn hunting when his king is under attack

and needs to be defended. Now I got my man!

14. Ne5+ Ke8
 15. Rf2! Bxe5
 16. dxe5 f6



Position after 16. ... f6

17. Rxc2 Rxc2
 18. Qa4+ resigns

The rook will fall next move.

1 - 0

Next issue, another example of the same theme.

ACF Tournament Calendar – mostly from <http://www.cis.uab.edu/info/faculty/sloan/ACF>

Event	Date and place	Contact person
Kelly Hill Rec Center Tournaments (see page 12)	February 26 Building 9079, Fort Benning, Georgia	Lamar Causey
Birmingham Blunders I (see page 13)	February 26 (reg. 7:30 – 9:00) Howard Johnsons, 275 Oxmoor Road, Bir.	Kirk Petty
First Sunday Quads (see page 12)	March 5 (reg. 1:00—1:30) 1st Floor Education Building, UAB	Kenneth Sloan
Alabama State Scholastic Individual	March 11 (late reg. 8:00-8:45) Advent Episcopal Day School, Birmingham	Dale Robbins
Tuscaloosa Quads (see page 13)	March 19 (reg. 1:30—2:00) Ferguson Center, Univ. of Alabama	Donald Yessick
Kelly Hill Rec Center Tournaments (see page 12)	March 25 Building 9079, Fort Benning, Georgia	Lamar Causey
Birmingham Blunders II (see page 12)	March 25 (reg. 7:30 – 9:00) Howard Johnsons, 275 Oxmoor Road, Bir.	Kirk Petty
Montgomery Chess Club G/29	April 1 Comfort Suites, 5924 Monticello Dr., Mont.	Caesar Lawrence
First Sunday Quads (see page 12)	April 2 (reg. 1:00—1:30) 1st Floor Education Building, UAB	Kenneth Sloan
Alabama State Scholastic Team	April 8 (no on-site registration) Simmons Middle School, Hoover	Tom Young
Tuscaloosa Quads (see page 13)	April 16 (reg. 1:30—2:00) Ferguson Center, Univ. of Alabama	Donald Yessick
Birmingham Blunders III (see page 12)	April 22 (reg. 7:30 – 9:00) Howard Johnsons, 275 Oxmoor Road, Bir.	Kirk Petty
Kelly Hill Rec Center Tournaments (see page 12)	April 29 Building 9079, Fort Benning, Georgia	Lamar Causey
First Sunday Quads (see page 12)	May 7 (reg. 1:00—1:30) 1st Floor Education Building, UAB	Kenneth Sloan
Tuscaloosa Quads (see page 13)	May 21 (reg. 1:30—2:00) Ferguson Center, Univ. of Alabama	Donald Yessick
Kelly Hill Rec Center Tournaments (see page 12)	May 27 Building 9079, Fort Benning, Georgia	Lamar Causey
Alabama G/29 (QC) Championship	June 3 Comfort Suites, 5924 Monticello Dr., Mont.	Caesar Lawrence
First Sunday Quads (see page 12)	June 4 (reg. 1:00—1:30) 1st Floor Education Building, UAB	Kenneth Sloan
Tuscaloosa Quads (see page 13)	June 18 (reg. 1:30—2:00) Ferguson Center, Univ. of Alabama	Donald Yessick

First Sunday Quads

When: The First Sunday of (almost) every month (please check the ACF Calendar)
Where: First floor, Education Building on the UAB campus.
What: Low-cost USCF rated Quads, G/45.
Entry fee: \$2.00. Some sections may be Hex, or G/30
Times: Registration, 1:00-1:30; Rounds, 1:45, 3:15, 4:45
Prizes: Clear winner in each section receives free entry to the next event.
Contact: Ken Sloan.
Latest info: www.cis.uab.edu/info/faculty/sloan/ACF

KELLY HILL REC CENTER TOURNAMENTS

When: The last Saturday of each month. Tournament starts at 12:00 noon, Eastern tiime.
Where: Building 9079, Fort Benning, Georgia.
What: Three-round Swiss system tournament, USCF rated, G/75, entry fee \$4.
Contact: For more info call Mason Lawrence after 12 noon on Monday, Thursday or Friday; or Lamar Causey after 6:00 PM
Sponsor: Phenix City Chess Club. Web page: <http://members.aol.com/Lam33/index.html>

(continued from page 9)

35. f6! Bxf6
 36. Qf5+ Kg7
 37. Re4 Qd3
 38. Qd7+ Kg6
 39. Qe8+ Kg7

Care is required. 39. Kh7?? 40. Qf7+ Bg7 41. Qf5+ Kg8 42. Re8+ wins for White! [42. ... Bf8 43. Qxf8+ Kh7 44. Qf7 mate.]

40. Qd7+ Kg6
 41. Qe8+ Kg7
 42. Qd7+

1/2 - 1/2

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A. J. Goldsby I
 U.S.C.F. Life-Master

Chess Instructor • Chess Lessons • Chess Coach
 On-staff of The Creative Learning Center

Birmingham Blunders (monthly tournament series)

at Howard Johnsons, 275 Oxmoor Road, Birmingham AL (Homewood)

February 26, 2000. 3 round Swiss in 8 person sections, G/1. Prizes (based on 8 players in section): \$60 first, \$30 second. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00.

March 25, 2000. 4 round one-section Swiss, G/1. Prizes (based on 20 players): 1st, \$80; 2nd, \$40; 1st 1700-1999, \$40; 1st 1500-1699, \$40; 1st 1499 and below, \$40. Must have 3 in rating group for prize to be awarded. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:00

April 22, 2000. 4 round Swisses, two sections: Pro: Open to 1600 and above; Amateur, Open to 1599 and below. Prizes in Open section (based on 12 players): 1st, \$90; 2nd, \$50; 1st B, \$40. Prizes in Amateur section (based on 15 players): 1st, \$90; 2nd, \$50; 1st D/E, \$40; 1st unrated, \$30. Rounds: 9:30, 12:30, 3:00, 5:00

All events: Entry fee for registration by mail is \$20.00 to Kirk Petty

On-site registration from 7:30 to 9:00; entry fee \$22.00 for Feb and March events, \$25.00 for April.

Tuscaloosa Quads

- When:** 3rd Sunday of (mostly) every month.
Where: Ferguson Center at the University of Alabama.
What: G/30—rated chess.
Entry fee: \$2.00; USCF membership required; available on site.
Registration: 1:30—2:00.
Dates: February 20, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18
Directions: (from Birmingham) From I59 southbound, take McFarland Boulevard Exit; turn right; continue to Jack Warner Parkway (formerly River Road); turn right onto JWP (will cross over McFarland); enter University of Alabama on McCorvey Drive; take left at stop sign. Ferguson Center is the building on your right.
Latest info: **Web:** bama.ua.edu/~yessi001/chess.
Sponsor: University of Alabama Chess Club

Eddie Kemp 1945—1998

*Last year, as we drew close to another Alabama State Championship, especially one to be played in Birmingham, I remembered the guy who walked up to me and said "Richard, I know a way we can create some real interest in the State Championship this year. I will put together a magazine about past State Championships. Maybe ACF can make some money on it". I told him to go ahead; give it a try. What was produced by Eddie was one of the first and best compilations of the history of chess in the state as far as it pertains to State Championship history. Eddie was a dedicated person, and when he set upon a project, he was always bound and determined to see it through to the end. That was truly a wonderful part of Eddie's character, which manifested itself in all phases of his life—at home, at work, or at play. Some who read this will remember Eddie as the person who held the *Antics* together when Lars Britt resigned as editor.*

It was during the time I was working in the area of Eddie's home town—Talladega—about every two weeks out of ten that I carried the highest ratings of my chess experience. I give credit to Eddie and some of the chess help he gave me during that time. Eddie was an excellent barber, so he had many opportunities to "clip" me not only on the chess board but on my head as well. I know that Reba, his wife, and Monica, his daughter, knew by Eddie's altered schedule those times when I was in town. But they knew if they needed him, he could be found playing chess in whichever room I was registered in at the Colony Inn located a short five minutes from Eddie's home.

*Of late, when the interest in tournament play seems to be on the downswing, let me give you a few thoughts Eddie once shared with everyone in an article entitled "Kemp vs. The Masters" published in the August 1990 issue of the *Antics*:*

"The point that I am trying to make in printing these two games is to : Stress to other chess players the importance of just showing up to play in tournaments. Humans enjoy winning. When they think there is no chance of winning, they tend to give up and quit. This is when the chess player is really at a loss. Those two men that I had the pleasure of playing in these games are in no way quitters. Both are at the head of the class in playing chess. I know that the war was not won, but I did win a couple of the battles. The only way it could every happen is by being there."

He believed it, and he showed up to play.

Richard Ellis

Ernie Cockrell 1916—1997

It was like yesterday. I remember the guy with the western style vest sitting across a board of play from another silver-haired gentleman. Apparently, this was a friendly confrontation between two long-time friends. "Well, here come those pawns moving down the board like a herd of turtles" remarked the gentleman attired in the western vest. Quickly back from the opposite side of the board came the reply of "Just so you can't get those dancing knights flying all over the board." The exchange which I had just witnessed was between two of the founding fathers of chess in the modern era of chess in Birmingham. It was the first of many enjoyable evenings I was to spend in the Bell Building on the campus of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, soon to be known fondly as UAB.

Ernie Cockrell and E.L. Fesperman were the two men engaged in the game above. However, the verbal exchange to which I had just been exposed was a language which was totally foreign to me. Some of the words were familiar—pawns, board, knights—but the way in which they were used was indeed strange and different. What did turtles, much less a herd of them, and dancing have to do with the game of chess? Welcome to the world of "Flannel Mouthing" developed and perfected by Ernie himself. You would have had to know him to understand why he called this language "Flannel Mouthing". Ernie, to my knowledge, never met a stranger. He was kind, generous and among many other things, a gentle person. Hence, flannel—one of the softer materials of the day. Who can forget his first flannel shirt! Ernie called this friendly banter "Flannel Mouthing". Among the most popular of descriptive terms used back then, and even now in some cases, was the "dancing knights"—yours or mine, whichever be the case. And that bunch of pawns which were referred to as a "herd of turtles". What are you going to do with a guy who sees everything????

*Ernie wrote several articles for the *Antics*. One in particular was a history of the Birmingham Chess Club, which can be found in some of the past issues of the *Antics*. He and I traveled together to quite a few tournaments, and each was a fun-filled time for both of us. We would sometimes get together at his home in Green Acres with his sons, Jim and John, and play some Saturday quads. We enjoyed those times of chess together. It is a shame that we did not keep score of the games at the time. I feel sure they would have produced some interesting chess history for the Cockrell family. I personally have the scores of some tournament games between Ernie and me; perhaps we can go into some of them at a later date. I do remember that Ernie won many more than I when we met across the board. Nevertheless, I can still say with all respect that all of my memories of Ernie Cockrell are most pleasant.*

Richard Ellis

USCF Bylaws Article 5 "Board of Delegates"

ARTICLE V.

BOARD OF DELEGATES

Section 1. Responsibility. The Board of Delegates is responsible for the management of the USCF. It shall formulate general policy, adopt the annual budget, and write the Bylaws.

Section 2. Number. The Board of Delegates shall be composed of the Executive Board members, the Delegates at Large, and 125 Delegates, apportioned among the states in proportion to their USCF membership as of November 1 of the year prior to Delegate elections, except that each state with thirty or more members must have at least one Delegate. In addition, any Executive Board member-elect who is not already a Delegate becomes a Delegate immediately upon certification of the election result. Regional Vice Presidents elected under prior versions of the Bylaws shall serve as Delegates until their terms expire.

Section 3. Alternate Delegates There shall be 375 Alternate Delegates apportioned among the states in proportion to their USCF membership as of November 1 of the year prior to the Delegate elections, except that each state with thirty or more USCF members must have at least one Alternate Delegate. All Life Voting Members under previous editions of these Bylaws shall automatically become Additional Alternate Delegates if they are not elected as Delegates.

Section 4. Nomination. Members may be nominated for Delegate from the state in which they reside by either submission of a nomination from the official State Chapter to the USCF Secretary postmarked on or before February 1st of an Election Year, and/or by submission of a petition bearing the signatures of 10 USCF members who are residents of their state postmarked on or before April 1st of an Election Year.

Section 5. Election. Delegates and Alternate Delegates for each state shall be elected by the members of their state. Ballots for that purpose shall be included in an issue of *Chess Life* to be mailed prior to June 10 with ballots to be returned no later than July 20 of a year in which there is an election so that the ballots can be counted no later than August 1. Ballots shall be authenticated by use of official mailing labels provided with the ballots. Each state shall elect the designated number of Delegates and Alternate Delegates who shall be listed in the order of votes received, the candidate who receives the largest number of votes listed first, and so on. The candidates who receive the largest number of votes are elected Delegates, the others are elected Alternate Delegates to fill, in order of votes received, Delegate vacancies for that state. Delegates shall serve a term of two years commencing at the conclusion of the Delegates meeting at which their election is certified. Ties shall be broken by the President of the State Chapter in which the tie occurs. Elections for Delegates shall be held every even-numbered year starting in 2000. A member may not cast more than one vote for any person. Upon resolution of the Board of Directors of a State Chapter, communicated in writing to the USCF Secretary prior to April 1st of an

Election Year, a state may be divided into two voting districts for the purpose of ensuring geographic representation. The resolution must specify how the division is to be made and how many Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be allocated to each district. The allocation shall be roughly proportional to the USCF membership in each district. Only voters from a district can vote for the Delegates and Alternate Delegates from that district.

Section 6. Vacancies. If one or more Delegates from any state are not present or are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, the ordered list of Alternate Delegates for that state is used to fill the Delegate vacancies for that meeting. The regularly elected Delegates continue in office for the remainder of their term. The state President or senior state officer may fill the vacancies from its ordered list of Alternate Delegates. If there are insufficient Alternate Delegates from the state to fill all remaining vacancies the state President or senior state officer present may appoint Alternate Delegates for that Annual Meeting. If a Delegate dies or resigns during the term of office, the vacancy shall be filled for the duration of the term of office by an Alternate Delegate in accordance with the ordered list. If a Delegate or Alternate Delegate moves from the state of residence, that person shall be deemed to have resigned as Delegate unless the State Chapter indicates otherwise.

Section 7. Annual Meeting. The President shall call and preside at an annual meeting of the Board of Delegates, held in conjunction with the U.S. Open tournament, for the purposes of hearing annual reports, installing officers, and considering other USCF business. A quorum shall consist of one third of the whole Board of Delegates present in person. The Secretary shall publish in *Chess Life* advance notice of the meeting and shall mail to each Delegate, between thirty and forty days before the Annual Meeting, a notice of the meeting and an agenda.

Section 8. Delegates at Large. Delegates at Large shall consist of the following:

A. All USCF Presidents who have served at least three consecutive years, upon completion of their term and are so elected by a majority of the Board of Delegates.

B. Those individuals who have rendered distinguished service to chess and who are elected by at least a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the Board of Delegates at two consecutive Annual Meetings by a motion on the advance agenda. The number of individuals in this category shall not exceed twenty.

The term of the Delegates at Large shall commence at the Annual Meeting at which they achieve Delegate at Large status and continue for three more Annual Meetings. A Delegate at Large whose term is expiring or has expired may be elected to a new term.

Section 9. Electors - The electors consist of the Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Delegates at Large, elected Executive Board members, and any Regional Vice Presidents elected under earlier versions of these Bylaws in or prior to 1997 for the remainder of their terms of office. The electors are responsible for electing the Executive Board.

Letter from USCF ED Gerald Duella to ACF President Richard Ellis

December 24, 1999

U.S. Chess Federation
3054 US Route 9W
New Windsor, N.Y. 12553

Mr. Richard Ellis, President
Alabama Chess Federation

Dear Richard,

This letter contains the "Duties and Responsibilities of State Affiliates" passed by USCF's Delegates at the August 1991 meeting in Los Angeles. This important information is in a document by itself, enclosed with this letter.

This letter also contains documents that you need to:

1. Apply for your State Affiliate Support Program SASP funds (Please send directly to USCF, Attention: Barbara A. DeMaro.) **Deadline: May 31, 2000**
2. Update USCF records regarding your state affiliate officers. (Please send directly to USCF, Attention: Barbara A. DeMaro.)

We're sending this letter to two officers of each state affiliate in all cases where we have such information on file. Ideally, we are mailing to the president and either the secretary or the treasurer. Please coordinate with other officers in your state to make sure the right people receive these documents.

Applying for Your State's SASP Funds

Please use the enclosed form, headed "1999-2000 Affiliate Support Program Grant Application", and return it directly to Executive Assistant Barbara DeMaro to apply for funding under this year's SASP program. The State Affiliate Support Program distributes a portion of national dues back to the state in which a member resides. The funding, intended to support regional chess, is based on a rate of \$1.00 per regular member and \$.40 per youth member, all according to membership totals as of **May 31, 1999** based on DM 96-29. However, at the 1999 Delegates' Meeting in Reno the \$30,000 SASP funding was eliminated in the revised budget. A motion to restore \$15,000 to the SASP funding line of the budget was passed (DM 99-05). Therefore, your allocation is for only \$.50 for regular members and \$.20 for youth members.

Remember that you must specifically claim, in writing, all or any part of your 1999-2000 SASP funding and that your claim must be received by the office by **May 31, 2000** or your state will **forfeit these funds**. (You may also request - in writing - that USCF keep your funds until you have a specific project in mind. This request will protect your funds from forfeiture for one year.) **As always, before we disburse any funds to your state, we must have in hand an accounting for any money you received last year.**

Again this year, we must caution you about depending on this money to support relatively normal or routine operations. These funds are best used to do something extraordinary for chess in your state.

Duties and Responsibilities of State Affiliates

motion 91 — 27 passed by USCF Delegates in Los Angeles, August 1991

Purpose: These Duties and Responsibilities are designed to offer criteria for the evaluation of how well a State Chapter is carrying out its responsibilities. The first five items are mandatory and of special significance. Each State Chapter should:

- *1. pay its affiliate membership when due and payable;
- *2. certify in writing to the USCF Secretary by the authorized date (November 1st), the state voting member(s) and alternate(s), who shall be USCF members, and report how they were selected (i.e., appointed, elected);
- *3. directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) an annual USCF rated State Championship;
- *4. have a formal organizational structure as laid out in bylaws or article of association which includes but is not limited to specifying the governing authority and their selection, meeting schedule and purpose of the state Chapter, and provide opportunities for membership and participation by all USCF members residing in the State;
- *5. appropriately request their SASP allocation to be paid to the State Chapter (or request it to be held for future use);
6. directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) annual USCF rated Scholastic State High School, Junior High or Middle School and Elementary School Championships;
7. directly sponsor and hold (or arrange for) other chess tournaments throughout the State and be involved in tournament coordination within the State and with the USCF Tournament Clearinghouse Representative. State Chapters are to support chess throughout the state and exhibit geographical representation in its tournament sponsorship. Examples include but are not limited to statewide or geographically rotating: Rated Beginners Open tournaments, weekend Swisses, tornados, quads, as well as: participation in National Chess Day Activities, Regional and/or National Championships;
8. disseminate a periodical that serves as a State chess journal preserving a record of chess activities, promoting events, identifying state officers and, in general, providing a regular mechanism for communicating with its membership. Examples include but are not limited to: State Bulletins, Newsletters or Magazines;
9. promote and publicize chess activities through various media, including but not limited to newspaper articles, television and radio coverage, flyers or notices at libraries, schools and veterans hospitals. Examples include but are not limited to: chess exhibitions and simultaneous, tournaments, chess lectures, chess lessons, chess columns and articles in local and statewide newspapers, chess clubs and meeting listings and announcements; and
10. responsibly act in the best interests of its entire State Chapter membership, encouraging and promoting chess activity statewide. The State Chapter affirms its intention to comply with the duties and responsibilities of credentialed State Chapters.

Some Letters and E-mails

12/8/99

Rhodes,

I am so proud of Miles Melvin for making the Top 50. He joins Andrew Whatley, Matthew Puckett, Daniel Thomas and Andy Reeder who made the Top 50 six plus years ago and stayed on it. Others such as James Richardson and Kendra King from Alabama have been on this prestigious list recently. What an accomplishment! These players get their start in Scholastic Competition but they make real progress by playing in adult events (and beating us up on their way up the ladder). I believe it is most important to encourage young players to enter adult events, by reduced entry fees, U/1300 sections, trophies or books for prizes, etc.

I hope you can use this letter as a short article or Letter to the Editor if you need a space filler.

Happy Holidays,

Bob Rieves

E-mail, 1/24/00

Shafer Gaston and the Alabama School of Math and Science held a five round quick chess rated tournament on 22 January 2000. Twenty-three players participated, so Shafer plans to run this event every month. Come and play with us. We need all to support rated chess events in the Mobile area.

This event was won by former State Champion, Brent Inman.

Jack Mallory

E-mail, 1/24/99

The Montgomery Chess Club G/29 Blast was won by Joe Jurjevich with a score of 6 out of 7 points. Two kids from Fairhope did very well

. Josh Burgans scored 4.5 points and Devin Vallier scored 5 points. Burgans gave Jurjevich a scare in the first round and defeated me in the last round. Vallier did even better by defeating Tim Bond in the first round, defeating Jurjevich in the 6th round and drawing Rhodes Peele in the 7th round.

Let's play chess ...

Caesar Lawrence

E-mail, 1/29/2000

The Pensacola Chess Club will host chess tournaments May 5-7, August 11-13 and October 13-15. Hope you can make it.

ENJOY A CHESS VACATION AT PENSACOLA BEACH!! May 5-7, 2000. Pensacola Quarterly (Spring) 5SS, 45/90, SD/30 (2 day, Rds. 1-2 G/90). Microtel Inn & Suites, Southside of Exit #2 behing Hardees, easy on/off I-10, Pensacola, Florida. \$\$2000 b/50. 3 sections: Open > 2000

(guaranteed \$\$500)\$\$450-225-100, Expert \$\$125-75; Reserve 1600-1999 \$\$200 + 100, B \$\$125-75. Novice U1600 \$\$150-75, D \$\$100-50, E \$\$50, Unr \$\$50. First Scholastic \$50 + trophy + book. (ALL: Min three per class for prize to be paid). all EF: \$57 if received by 4/23/00, \$66 at site. (Out-of-state OR Under 18, deduct \$10.) Reentry \$32. Richard Crespo will be TD.

Registration: 3-day Reg. ends 7:00 PM Fri.; 1st Rd. 7:30 PM, Sat Rd 2 at 9:00 AM; 2-day Reg. ends Sat 8:30 AM, Rd 1 at 9:00 AM, Rd 2 at 12:45 PM. ALL: Rd 3 at 4:30 PM. Sun. 9:30 AM, 2:15 PM (early afternoon round for out-of-towners!) SIDE EVENT: Quick Chess Sat, G/10 EF \$10, prizes based on entries. Reg 7:30-8:00 PM. First Rd. 8:15. HR: (850)-941-8902 (\$49 if mention Pensacola Chess Club).

Bookseller on site. World's most beautiful beaches. Bus trips to casinos. Canoe rentals. Historical sites. Museum of Naval Aviation & IMAX. All players \$10 voucher toward seafood restaurant on beach, other amenities as sponsors allow.

Info: Dr. John Perciballi or Mike Thornton

Entries to Pensacola Chess Club, P.P. Box 1124 Pensacola, FL 32595-1124.

The **Alabama Chess Federation** (ACF) is the United States Chess Federation (USCF) affiliate for the state of Alabama. Membership is open to any interested individual or organization by paying the annual membership dues. Please support Alabama chess by **joining** or **renewing** your annual membership in

ACF Membership Application

() Regular, \$10

() Scholastic, \$5

() Affiliate, \$15

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

USCF ID# (if applicable) _____

PHONE and/or E-ADDRESS _____

Mail this coupon or a photocopy along with payment to
Jack Mallory / ACF Secretary/Treasurer /

Alabama Chess Antics

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FIRST CLASS

Inside This Issue

- *Four annotated master games*
 - *Obituaries: Eddie Kemp and Ernie Cockrell*
 - *Tournament Calendar: Many one-day and Scholastic tournaments*
 - *Information from ACF President Ellis and from USCF*
 - *Much more*
-